

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CZECH ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY REGARDING PROFESSOR DAVID SCHEFFEL'S DETENTION IN SLOVAKIA

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To whom it may concern,

The Czech Association of Social Anthropology, a member of the Council of Scientific Societies of the Czech Republic, wishes to express concern about the case of Professor David Scheffel who has been remanded in custody in Slovakia since November 10, 2017. Professor Scheffel, a recognized expert in Romani studies, was arrested in connection with the anthropological field research that he had been conducting in the vicinity of the town of Prešov.

We are aware of the public statement that Professor Scheffel issued in May 2018 which is available at <https://www.justicefordavidscheffel.com/>. Several members of the Czech Association of Social Anthropology have been closely following Professor Scheffel's case, and some have been in direct contact with him.

The Czech Association of Social Anthropology calls for the dignity of Professor Scheffel, as a detainee, to be respected under all circumstances and in compliance with national and European standards.

We emphasize that the conditions under which Professor Scheffel is held must be such so as to allow him to prepare an effective defense; and must include allowing Professor Scheffel to have full access to his own research material.

We call on all parties involved in this case to recognize that the freedom to pursue scientific research extends to projects that focus on informal and illegal practices.



Martin Heřmanský, Ph.D.

On behalf of the executive board of the Czech Association for Social Anthropology